

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 07615 220727Z

11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01 OMB-01 (ISO) W

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P R 211923Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7636

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USEC BRUSSELS 0751

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7615

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PGOV, SP

SUBJECT: "CARABANCHEL TEN" TRIAL CONCLUDES IN RECORD TIME

BEGIN SUMMARY: "CARABANCHEL TEN" TRIAL OF "1001 CASE1
WAS HELD DEC 20 AND 21. NOTWITHSTANDING PERIOD OF
NATIONAL MOURNING DECLARED AS RESULT CARRERO BLANCO
ASSASSINATION DEC 20. AS EXPECTED VERDICT WAS
GUILTY AS CHARGED. AMONG INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS WERE
FOUR AMERICANS, INCLUDING RAMSEY CLARK AND U.S.
TRADE UNIONIST HENRY FONER. END SUMMARY

1. DESPITE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT CARRERO BLANCO
SAME DAY, "CARABANCHEL TEN" TRIAL OF TEN PROMINENT
WORKER COMMISSION LEADERS FORMALLY OPENED AT
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PAGE 02 MADRID 07615 220727Z

1700 DEC 20 (AFTER HAVING BEEN POSTPONED THAT

MORNING), AND CONTINUED ALL DAY DEC 21 ENDING
THA NIGHT.

2. MOTIVATION OF GOVERNMENT TO PROCEED WITH TRIAL,
DESPITE OFFICIAL THREE-DAY PERIOD OF MOURNING FOR
CARRERO, WAS PROBABLY DESIRE TO GET TRIAL OVER WITH
NOW, WHEN OPPOSITION LABOR AND POLITICAL GROUPS
HAVE BECOME UNEASY AND SOMEWHAT SUBDUED AS RESULT OF
CARRERO ASSASSINATION. SUSPENSION OF TRIAL UNTIL
FUTURE DATE WOULD HAVE PLAYED INTO OPPOSITION'S HANDS,
INASMUCH AS OPPOSITION ITSELF HAD DURING PAST WEEK
APPEALED TO GOVERNMENT FOR POSTPONEMENT OF TRIAL TO
JANUARY.

3. LABATT SPOKE WITH A COUPLE OF AMERICAN OBSERVERS
WHO ATTENDED TRIAL, I.E., WITH TRADE UNIONIST HENRY
FONER, AND WITH LAWYER HENRY GILER. FONER IS PRESIDENT
OF JOINT BOARD OF FUR, LEATHER AND MACHINE WORKERS UNION
(AFL-CIO) IN NEW YORK. HE STATED HE NOT REPRESENTING
AFL-CIO NATIONALLY BUT ONLY HIS UNION AS WELL AS
SEVERAL LOCALS OF UNIONS FROM THE NEW YORK AREA, NOTABLY
THE MEAT CUTTERS DRUG AND HOSPITAL WORKERS, AND
DISTRIBUTIVE WORKERS. GILER IS A LAWYER WHO REPRESENTS
THE VETERANS OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE. ALSO
FORMING PART OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION WAS FORMER
ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK (WHO FINALLY ARRIVED
LATE DECEMBER 20), AND LAWYER ERIC W. SCHMIDT,
REPRESENTING NATIONAL LAWYER'S GUILD AND U.S. COMMITTEE
FOR "CARABANCHEL TEN". FONER AND GILER DESCRIBED TRIAL
AS A "LEGAL FARCE".

4. OTHER FOREIGN OBSERVERS AT TRIAL INCLUDED PADDY
NEALE, CANADIAN M.P. FROM VANCOUVER, AND MICHEL
CHARTRAND FROM FRENCH-CANADIAN UNIONS IN MONTREAL;
11 ITALIANS, MOSTLY LAWYERS, BUT ALSO
TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES; FIVE FRENCHMAN, THREE OF
THEM LAWYERS AND TWO FROM FRENCH COMMUNIST CGT: THREE
BRITONS (SEE REF), ONE BELGIAN, AND ONE WEST GERMAN.
APPARENTLY, NEITHER ICFTU, WCL, NOR WFTU WERE REPRESENTED.

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PAGE 03 MADRID 07615 220727Z

5. TRIAL REPORTEDLY ENDED WITH, AS EXPECTED, GUILTY
VERDICT BY JUDGE, AND WITH DEFENSE LAWYERS MAINTAINING
THROUGHOUT THAT "CARABANCHEL TEN" WERE NOT LEADERS OF
WORKERS COMMISSIONS.

6. FOREIGN OVSERVERS HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE EVENING
DEC 21 IN PALACE HOTEL IN WHICH THEY ISSUED
STATEMENT ATTACKING GOS FOR CONDUCT OF TRIAL AND ABSENCE

OF HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS.

7. SENTENCING IN CASE NOT EXPECTED FOR SEVERAL DAYS.
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